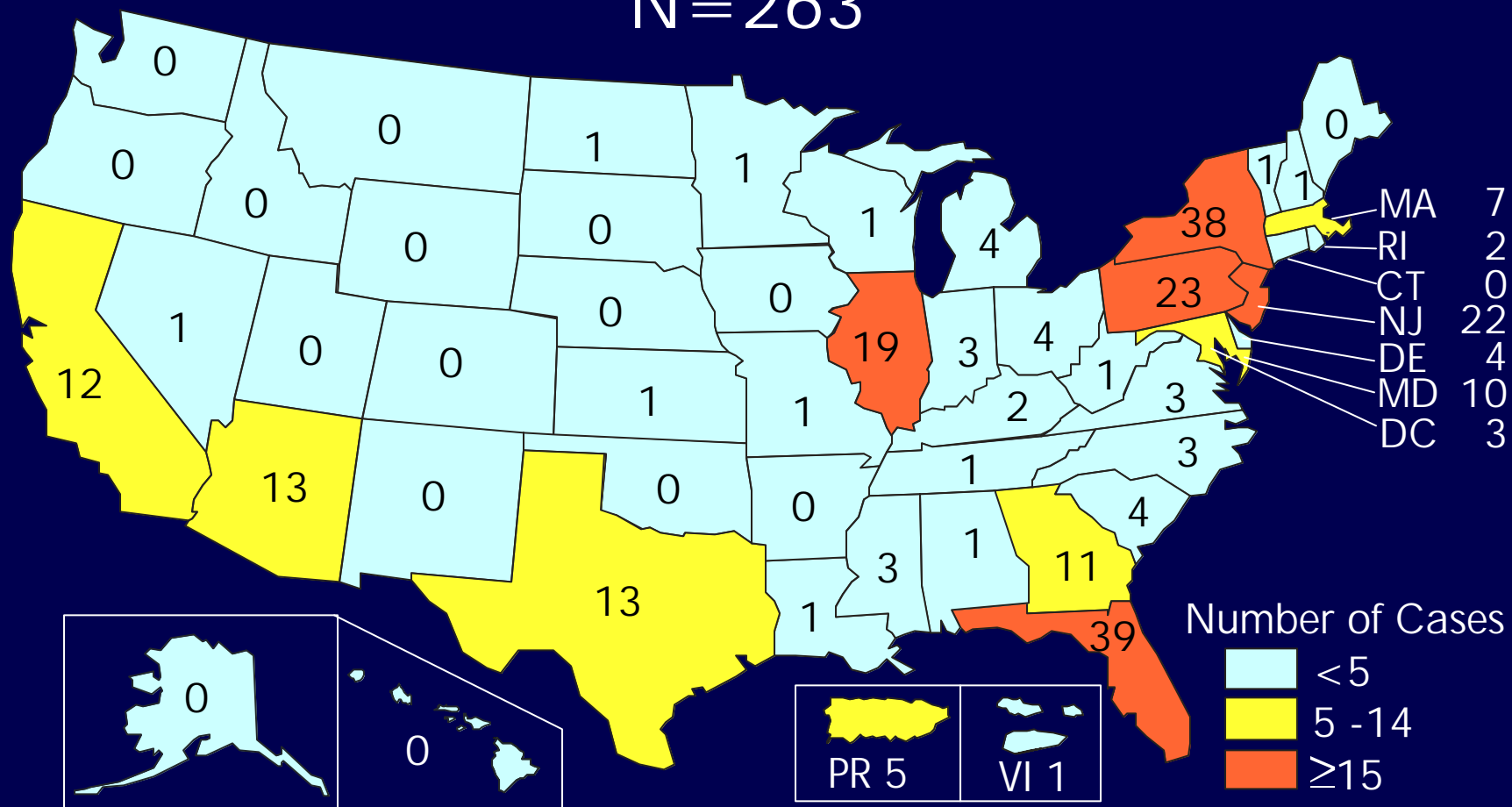


Pediatric AIDS Cases Reported in 1999

N=263



Pediatric AIDS Cases Reported in 1999

In 1999, 263 cases of AIDS were reported among children less than 13 years of age, a decrease from 382 in 1998. After follow-up for risk exposure, nearly all of the recent AIDS cases reported in children are found to be acquired through mother-to-child, or perinatal, transmission. New York and Florida reported the greatest number of cases, followed by Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois and Texas. Seventeen states did not report any pediatric AIDS cases in 1998. Reasons for the decrease in pediatric AIDS include the prevention of perinatal transmission through increasing use of antiretroviral therapies, improvements in the clinical management of women and children, and decreases in the number of HIV-infected women giving birth. Surveillance data and studies suggest that successful implementation of U.S. Public Health Service guidelines for universal counseling and voluntary HIV testing of pregnant women and the use of zidovudine by pregnant women and administration to newborn infants are the factors that account for the substantial and sustained decline in perinatally acquired AIDS.